

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Bighorn Sheep Survey of the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge	Project No. 10-410
Region/GMU: Region IV	HPC: SW Arizona
Project Type: Wildlife Surveys	
Project Description: The bighorn sheep population on the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge has declined by more than 50% since 2000. This population has historically served as the primary source for transplant sheep of the <i>mexicana</i> subspecies, but it can not be used for that purpose until the population recovers sufficiently. Until that recovery is complete, there is a need to do annual surveys to determine if the population is still declining and to monitor the efficacy of our recovery actions. This project would be a complete aerial survey of the Kofa refuge in the fall of 2010.	
Wildlife Species to Benefit: Bighorn Sheep – 100%	
Possible Funding Partners:	
Implementation Schedule: Beginning: October 2010 Completed: July 2011	

PROJECT FUNDING

SBG Funds Requested: \$ 28410

Cost Share Funds: \$

Total Project Costs: \$ 28410

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant: Bob Henry Telephone: 928-341-4048	Address: 9140 E 28 th St Yuma, AZ 85365
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AGFD Contact and Phone No.
(If applicant is not AGFD personnel)

Coordinated with: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Applicant's signature:	Date: July 8, 2010
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NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

The Kofa Refuge population needs a complete

survey in order to determine the size, composition, and trend of that sheep herd. The last complete population survey was done in 2009. The cost has traditionally been shared by both the FWS and AGFD. The FWS has transferred their half of the cost to AGFD.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: To determine the size, composition, distribution and trend of the bighorn sheep population on the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. This data is needed to determine if the management activities, such as predation control and water management, that have been instituted to assist the bighorn, are having a positive effect, and to determine appropriate level of hunter harvest.

PROJECT STRATEGIES:

- We will conduct aerial surveys using a helicopter and 3 experienced observers to census all available bighorn sheep habitat within the proposed population areas. We will follow standardized methods and record flight paths and animal locations with onboard GPS units.
- The census data will be used to calculate an estimate of population size.
- The estimates will be compared to previous estimates to determine trend and appropriate harvest levels.

PROJECT LOCATION: Aerial surveys will be conducted in the Kofa and Castle Dome Mountains of Yuma and La Paz counties.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name): All of the project areas are public land managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT? N.A.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: Most of the proposal area is an upper Sonoran desertscrub community,.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

BUDGET DETAILS:

Helicopter and pilot - Cost per hour of flight time	=	\$789
Ferry and fuel truck costs per hour @ 20%	=	\$158
Total cost per hour	=	\$947

Total survey cost @ \$947 per hr

Kofa NWR survey (60 hours)	Total cost	=	\$56820
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AGFD share (50%)	=	\$28410
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The entire amount of the funds will be used by the aviation office of Game and Fish for payment to the outside helicopter contractor.

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION: The Fish and Wildlife Service, Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, will contribute approximately 50% of the funds, personnel and other support services for the project on their refuge.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN: No long term costs will be associated with this project. The populations will continue to be monitored after project completion. There will be a need and desire to repeat the surveys annually in the Kofa refuge until the population has recovered to long term average population of about 800 animals.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE: No maintenance will be required.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY: Bob Henry, Game Specialist, Region IV, AGFD

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet): N.A.

TREE SHEARING (AGRA-AXE, PUSH) PROJECTS (see attached worksheet): N.A.